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Letter dated 18 June 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter of protest dated 20 May 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. It concerns the announcement made by Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Hashim, assistant to the Minister of Roads and Transport for the construction and development of seaports and airports in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and published by the newspaper Resalat in its issue for 12 May 1997, which constitutes a violation to the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the Greater Tunb island.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39 and 148 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalid Khalifa AL-MUALLA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 20 May 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi and would like to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the construction of a dock on the Greater Tunb island, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates and has been occupied by Iran since 1971, as announced by Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Hashim, assistant to the Minister of Roads and Transport for the construction and development of seaports and airports in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a statement to the newspaper Resalat published in its issue for 12 May 1997, constitutes a clear breach of the principles of international law and a blatant violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the Greater Tunb island. No rights over the island thereby accrue to the Islamic Republic of Iran under the established principles of international law that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible and that occupation does not confer on the occupying Power any rights over the territories forcibly subjected by it.

Accordingly, the Government of the United Arab Emirates wishes to convey to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it strongly protests against this illegal action. It regards this and all previous actions taken by the Iranian Government on the occupied Greater Tunb island, as well as on the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, as unwarranted acts of provocation that do not confer on the Islamic Republic of Iran any rights over these islands.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over the three islands and its refusal to recognize the sovereignty over them of any other State. It retains all of its rights in respect of these islands.